

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of early diagnosing chronic rejection (CR) in a kidney transplanted test subject, comprising:

a) assaying as a baseline value the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby in a renal allograft tissue biopsy obtained from a kidney transplanted control subject who is known not to develop CR;

b) assaying as a test value the ~~corresponding levels of~~ levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby in a renal allograft tissue biopsy obtained from a kidney transplanted test subject within the first year post-transplantation; and

c) comparing the baseline value of step a) with the test value of step b), wherein a baseline value lower than the test value, in the case of the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby and higher than the test value, in the case of the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:37 or 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby predicts that the kidney transplanted test subject has an increased risk of developing CR.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein renal allograft tissue biopsy of the transplanted control subject is obtained from the control subject at the day of transplantation.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring CR in a kidney transplanted subject at risk of developing CR, comprising:

a) assaying the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby in a renal allograft tissue biopsy sample obtained from a kidney transplanted subject prior to exposure to transplant therapy;

b) assaying the ~~corresponding levels of expression~~ levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby in at least one renal allograft tissue biopsy sample obtained from the kidney transplanted subject after exposure to transplant therapy; and

c) comparing the levels of expression detected in step a) and step b), wherein an increase in the levels detected in step b) in comparison to the levels detected in step a) in the case of the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby and a decrease in the levels detected in step b) in comparison to the levels detected in step a) in the case of the levels of expression of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37 and 38, mRNA transcribed therefrom or protein encoded thereby indicates an increased likelihood of developing CR.

Claims 4-7. (Canceled).

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the baseline value and the test value are assessed by assaying the levels of protein encoded by the nucleic acid sequences.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the levels of protein are assayed using reagents that specifically bind to the proteins.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the levels of mRNA expression are assayed by Northern blot analysis, a hybridization technique, reverse transcription PCR or real time quantitative PCR.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the baseline value and the test value are assessed by assaying the levels of mRNA transcribed from the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 ~~expression corresponding to the nucleic acid sequences.~~

Claims 12-14. (Canceled).

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the renal allograft tissue biopsy obtained from the kidney transplanted test subject in step b) is obtained within 4 to 7 months post-transplantation.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 15, wherein the renal allograft tissue biopsy obtained from the kidney transplanted test subject in step b) is obtained at about 6 months post-transplantation.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one renal allograft tissue biopsy sample obtained from the kidney transplanted subject in step b) is obtained within 4 to 7 months post-transplantation ~~after exposure to transplant therapy.~~

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one renal allograft tissue biopsy sample obtained from the kidney transplanted subject in step b) is obtained at about 6 months post-transplantation ~~after exposure to transplant therapy.~~